

illness. During the last few years Dr. Perks has retired from practice and has resided at Southsea. His kindly face and genial manner are still in the recollection of thousands of the residents of that locality. He commenced practice by joining the firm of Drs. Porter and Meadows in the year 1841, and during all his active life he resided in Portsea. Dr. Perks enjoyed an excellent practice, and had great reputation as an accoucheur, so that his assistance was often sought for in difficult cases by his professional brethren. He was greatly esteemed and respected by the entire medical profession in the locality, and hundreds of the poorer classes of the inhabitants have cause to bless his memory. Dr. Perks was admitted a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1839. He was for many years a member of the British Medical Association.

PROFESSOR AUGUST BREISKY, M.D., Vienna.

AUGUST BREISKY was born on March 25th, 1832, at Klattau, in Bohemia, and studied medicine at Prague, where he took his M.D. degree in 1855. He was first assistant to Professor Treitz, of Prague, in the Chair of Pathological Anatomy, for about four years, and then became assistant to Seyfert, in the obstetrical and gynaecological clinic. Two years later he became director of the Prague "Handelsspital." During this period he wrote two remarkable works, namely, *On the Development of Rational Indications for Extraction in the Case of Presentation of the Pelvic Extremity* (1865) and *On the Influence of Kyphosis on the Form of the Pelvis*.

In 1866 Breisky was called as Ordinary Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology to the Surgical School of Salzburg, and soon afterwards he was invited in the same capacity to the Medical Faculty of Berne, where he remained from 1867 to 1874. There he published the following works: *On the Treatment of Puerperal Haemorrhages; Contributions to the Obstetrical Appreciation of the Narrowing of the Pelvic Outlet; On the Doctrine of Face Presentation*; and also several monographs on synsytresias. At Berne Breisky also displayed great organising capacity, and, after several struggles with the Government of the Berne canton, he succeeded in having a new lying-in hospital built.

In 1874 Breisky was called as ordinary professor of obstetrics and gynaecology to Prague, where he remained from 1874 to 1886. His first work there was to introduce the strict practice of antiseptic principles. He introduced Emmet's operation, and performed Porro's operation in six cases, in all of which the mothers and children were saved. At Prague he wrote: *On Myomata of the Neck of the Uterus; On Premature Birth; On the Treatment of Puerperal Fever; The Palliative Treatment of Prolapse of the Vagina*, etc., etc. During his stay at Prague, he refused invitations to Strasburg and Breslau, and was, in consequence, appointed an Austrian "Hofrath." In October, 1886, after the retirement of Professor Spaeth from the second obstetrical and gynaecological clinic at the Vienna Medical Faculty, Breisky was invited to fill his place. The construction of a new amphitheatre and the creation of the Vienna Obstetrico-Gynaecological Society were the chief works of Professor Breisky during his short sojourn in Vienna. He was a man of great general culture, and when Sir Spencer Wells was in Vienna on the occasion of the International Hygienic Congress, Professor Breisky proposed the health of that distinguished surgeon in a speech delivered in excellent English at a banquet given in his honour.

The funeral, which took place on May 27th, was attended by almost all the professors of the Vienna Medical Faculty, high dignitaries, etc. The dean of the Medical Faculty, Professor v. Hofmann, delivered an eloquent and impressive funeral oration by the grave of the deceased physician.

VACCINATION IN THE PORTUGUESE ARMY.—By a decree dated March 15th, the Portuguese Government has ordered that all recruits shall be vaccinated or revaccinated as soon as they join. Those in whom the vaccine does not take are to be subjected to the operation as often as may be necessary to prove that immunity has been established.

HYPNOTISM IN PORTUGAL.—The Portuguese Government has forbidden public exhibitions of hypnotism on the ground that they are dangerous to the health both of the "subjects" and of the spectators, and that the method may be used for criminal purposes. This prohibition of course does not apply to the therapeutic application of hypnotism by physicians.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE LAW AS TO OFFENSIVE TRADES.

A CASE of more than ordinary interest to sanitary authorities came on for hearing at the Llandaff Police Court a few days since. The Cardiff and South Wales Manure Company were summoned by the Cardiff Rural Sanitary Authority for having established in November and February last respectively the offensive trades of meat boiling and bone boiling without the consent of the said authority. The business of a bone boiler was, as the complainants informed the Bench, one of the six trades specified as offensive in the 112th Section of the Public Health Act, and the business of meat boiler was a trade of a like kind. The Company slaughtered horses, and boiled the meat and bones, the bones being afterwards used in the manufacture of artificial manure. The whole business, however conducted, would almost certainly become a public nuisance, especially in a populous neighbourhood. It was pointed out that within half a mile of the works were four hundred houses, and that, had it been necessary, it would have been easy to prove that an intolerable nuisance had been created.

The first witness was the clerk to the authority, who stated that, on December 12th, the company applied for a licence as bone boilers. The application was deferred, and subsequently refused.

The next witness was an inspector of nuisances in the service of the authority. He visited the works on November 8th, and found preparations being made for bone boiling. On November 21st the business was commenced, and since then the nuisance caused had been very bad.

In cross-examination, the inspector admitted stating in a report that the work was being done "under the most favourable circumstances," and doubtless the high walls round the works and the tall chimneys protected the neighbourhood somewhat.

Dr. Prichard testified as to the offensive nature of the smell produced, which tended to occasion sickness, loss of appetite, and general ill-health. Evidence was also given by several inhabitants of the district, all of whom characterised the works as offensive.

On behalf of the defendants it was urged that no bone boiling was done by the company, the process adopted being bone steaming, which gave rise to no smell, and that boiling horseflesh was not an offensive trade, but that people were prejudiced against the business, and imagined it was offensive. Such works were necessary, and existed in the thickly populated parts of London and Liverpool, and other large towns.

The manager of the works was called to prove that the latest and best methods were used in the operations of the company, and that there was hardly any smell. The liquid residuum, when the boiling was over, was run into a cesspool, but the cesspool did not smell.

The Chairman of the company testified that £2,000 had already been spent on the business, and that the only smell given off was that caused by all slaughter-houses.

A civil engineer, who had visited the premises several times, was of opinion that the business as conducted by the defendants should not cause a nuisance.

Two medical practitioners, a veterinary surgeon, and several residents in the neighbourhood were also called as witnesses, and stated that they could detect no smell outside the works.

The Bench, after careful consideration of all the evidence submitted, held that bone steaming and horseflesh boiling were offensive trades, coming within the meaning of the Act, and that they had been established without the consent of the local authority. The defendants were fined £5 and costs for each offence.

The complainants are to be congratulated on winning their case. Of course, the amount of the fines represents only a very small portion of the loss to the defendants, but there seems little doubt that they knew they were establishing an offensive trade, or they would not have applied to the sanitary authority for a licence.

POSITION OF NEW CEMETERY.

IN reply to Mr. J. S. Gelston's inquiry, we may point out that by Section 10 of the Cemeteries Clauses Act, 1847, incorporated with the Public Health (Interments) Act, 1879, it is prescribed that a cemetery provided under those Acts is not to be constructed nearer to any dwelling-house than two hundred yards, except with the consent in writing of the owner, lessee, and occupier of such house. Lumley's *Public Health* contains much information on the legal aspects of this question, but it is an expensive volume. Some very useful information, which may possibly answer all the purposes of our correspondent, is to be found in an official memorandum which was recently prepared in the Medical Department of the Local Government Board on the "Sanitary Requirements of Cemeteries." It may be purchased either direct from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, London, or through any bookseller, and its published price is 2d.

HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

DURING the week ending Saturday, June 1st, 5,495 births and 3,019 deaths were registered in twenty-eight of the largest English towns, including London, which have an estimated population of 9,555,406 persons. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had been 17.2 and 17.4 per 1,000 in the two preceding weeks, declined again to 16.5 during the week under notice. The rates in the several towns ranged from 12.7 in Bradford, 13.6 in Bristol, 13.7 in Brighton, and 13.8 in London to 25.7 in Halifax, 25.9 in Newcastle-on-Tyne, 29.4 in Plymouth and 38.6 in Preston. In the twenty-seven provincial towns the mean death-rate was 18.7 per 1,000, and exceeded as much as 4.9 the rate recorded in London, which was only 13.8 per 1,000. The 3,019 deaths registered during the week under notice in the twenty-eight towns included 138 which were referred to measles, 114 to whooping-cough, 48 to diarrhoea, 39 to scarlet fever, 29 to diphtheria, 23 to "fever" (principally enteric), and not 1 to small-pox; in all, 291 deaths resulted from these